

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP2003/010767 Filed September 27, 2003**

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-17, without prejudice, and add new claims 18-30, in accordance with the following complete listing of all claims ever presented. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (New): A method of protecting the human skin against aging, said method comprising applying to the skin a composition containing at least one substance which modulates at least one proteoglycan selected from a group consisting of lumican, syndecan, versican, decorin, glypican and biglycan.

Claim 19 (New): A method according to claim 18 wherein the at least one substance modulates lumican, syndecan or decorin.

Claim 20 (New): A method according to claim 19 wherein the at least one substance is selected from at least one plant extract.

Claim 21 (New): A method according to claim 20 wherein the at least one plant extract is selected from an extract of *Pisum sativum* and *Vigna aconitifolia*.

Claim 22 (New): A method according to claim 18 wherein the at least one substance is selected from a group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extract and disodium succinate.

Claim 23 (New): A method according to claim 18 wherein the at least one substance is selected from a group consisting of phytosterols, triterpenes, triterpene saponins, TGF β , IL4, flavonoids, and flavonoid derivatives.

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Claim 24 (New): A method of improving the regeneration and healing of the human skin, said method comprising applying to the skin a composition containing at least one substance which modulates at least one proteoglycan selected from a group consisting of lumican, syndecan, versican, decorin, glypican and biglycan.

Claim 25 (New): A method according to claim 24 wherein the at least one substance modulates lumican, syndecan or biglycan.

Claim 26 (New): A method according to claim 24 wherein the at least one substance is selected from at least one plant extract.

Claim 27 (New): A method according to claim 26 wherein the at least one plant extract is selected from an extract of *Pisum sativum* and *Vigna aconitifolia*.

Claim 28 (New): A method according to claim 24 wherein the at least one substance is selected from a group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extract and disodium succinate.

Claim 29 (New): A method according to claim 24 wherein the at least one substance is selected from a group consisting of phytosterols, triterpenes, triterpene saponins, TGF β , IL4, b-FGF, flavonoids, and flavonoid derivatives.

Claim 30 (New): A method of increasing the mRNA content for lumican, said method comprising incubating MRC5 fibroblasts with IGF-1.